CLAIMS:

1.   A method for automatically switching remote shared devices in a dense server environment comprising the steps of:

     receiving a request to access a shared device from a server blade; and

     issuing a query as to whether said shared device is being accessed;

     wherein if said shared device is not being accessed by said server blade then the method further comprises the steps of:

     receiving a response to said query indicating that said shared device is not available; and

     waiting to receive a response that said shared device is available.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

     determining if said shared device is being accessed.

3.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein if said shared device is not being accessed then the method further comprises the steps of:

     connecting said shared device with said server blade; and

     transferring said request to access said shared device to said shared device.

4.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein if said shared device is being accessed then the method further comprises the step of:

     determining if said shared device is being accessed by said server blade.

5.   The method as recited in claim 4, wherein if said shared device is being accessed by said server blade then the method further comprises the steps of:

     connecting said shared device with said server blade; and

     transferring said request to access said shared device to said shared device.

6.   The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

     receiving said response that said shared device is available;

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3   connecting said shared device with said server blade; and

4   transferring said request to access said shared device to said shared device.

1   7.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said shared device is a Universal

2   Serial Bus device.

1   8.   A computer program product embodied in a machine readable medium for

2   automatically switching remote shared devices in a dense server environment

3   comprising the programming steps of:

4   receiving a request to access a shared device from a server blade; and

5   issuing a query as to whether said shared device is being accessed;

6   wherein if said shared device is not being accessed by said server blade then

7   the computer program product further comprises the programming steps of:

8   receiving a response to said query indicating that said shared device is

9   not available; and

10   waiting to receive a response that said shared device is available.

1   9.   The computer program product as recited in claim 8 further comprises the

2   programming step of:

3   determining if said shared device is being accessed.

1   10.   The method as recited in claim 9, wherein if said shared device is not being

2   accessed then the computer program product further comprises the programming

3   steps of:

4   connecting said shared device with said server blade; and

5   transferring said request to access said shared device to said shared device.

1   11.   The computer program product as recited in claim 9, wherein if said shared

2   device is being accessed then the computer program product further comprises the

3   programming step of:

4   determining if said shared device is being accessed by said server blade.

1   12.   The computer program product as recited in claim 9, wherein if said shared

2   device is being accessed by said server blade then the computer program product

3   further comprises the programming steps of:

4   connecting said shared device with said server blade; and

5   transferring said request to access said shared device to said shared device.

1   13.   The computer program product as recited in claim 8 further comprises the

2   programming steps of:

3   receiving said response that said shared device is available;

4   connecting said shared device with said server blade; and

5   transferring said request to access said shared device to said shared device.

1   14.   The computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein said shared

2   device is a Universal Serial Bus device.

1   15.   A system, comprising:

2   one or more shared devices; and

3   a plurality of server blades coupled to said one or more shared devices via a

4   service unit, wherein said service unit is configured to establish a connection between

5   one of said one or more shared devices and one of said plurality of server blades

6   requesting to access said one of said one or more shared devices;

7   wherein said requesting server blade comprises:

8   a processor; and

9   a memory unit coupled to said processor, wherein said memory unit is

10   operable for storing a program, wherein the program is operable for performing the

11   following programming steps:

12   receiving a request to access said requested shared device from

13   said requesting server blade; and

14   issuing a query to said service unit as to whether said requested

15   shared device is being accessed;

16   wherein if said requested shared device is not being accessed

17   by said requesting server blade then the program is further operable for performing

18   the following programming steps:

19   receiving a response to said query indicating that said

20   requested shared device is not available; and

21   waiting to receive a response that said requested shared

22   device is available.

1   16.   The system as recited in claim 15, wherein said service unit comprises:

2   a processor; and

3   a memory unit coupled to said processor, wherein said memory unit is

4   operable for storing a computer program, wherein the computer program is operable

5   for performing the following programming step:

6   determining if said requested shared device is being accessed.

1   17.   The system as recited in claim 16, wherein if said requested shared device is

2   not being accessed then the computer program of said service unit is further operable

3   for performing the following programming step:

4   connecting said requested shared device with said requesting server blade;

5   wherein if said requested shared device is not being accessed then the program

6   of said requesting server blade is further operable for performing the following

7   programming step:

8   transferring said request to access said requested shared device to said

9   requested shared device.

1   18.   The system as recited in claim 16, wherein if said requested shared device is

2   being accessed then the computer program of said service unit is further operable for

3   performing the following programming step:

4   determining if said requested shared device is being accessed by said

5   requesting server blade.

1   19.   The system as recited in claim 18, wherein if said requested shared device is

2   being accessed by said requesting server blade then the computer program of said

3   service unit is further operable for performing the following programming step:

4   connecting said requested shared device with said requesting server blade;

5   wherein if said requested shared device is being accessed by said requesting

6   server blade then the program of said requesting server blade is further operable for

7   performing the following programming step:

8   transferring said request to access said requested shared device to said

9   requested shared device.

1   20.   The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the program of said requesting

2   server blade is further operable for performing the following programming step:

3   receiving said response that said requested shared devices is available.

1   21.   The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the computer program of said

2   service unit is further operable for performing the following programming step:

3   connecting said requested shared device with said requesting server blade;

4   wherein the program of said requesting server blade is further operable for

5   performing the following programming step:

6   transferring said request to access said requested shared device to said

7   requested shard device.

1   22.   The system as recited in claim 15, wherein said requested shared device is a

2   Universal Serial Bus device.